THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) At the meeting taken by the Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Food & Civil Supplies on 14-12-1986 at Patna, it was, *inter alia*, decided that in order to make the functioning of the Public Distribution System in Bihar more effective, more godowns for storing foodgrains would be constructed in Bihar, adequate stocks of foodgrains would be maintained, supplies of foodgrains to Bihar woud be stepped up and additional financial assistance would be given to the Government of Bihar for the purchase of mobile vans. Steps have already been taken to implement the above decisions. The Cenrtal Government is already supplying to Bihar seven essential commodities on a regular basis. At times, State Governments including Bihar are not lifting the supplies of these essential commodities due to various reasons. However, the Central Government has been from time to time impressing upon the State Governments, including the Government of Bihar to strengthen and streamline the Public Distribution System in the State considering that the overall effectiveness of the Public Distribution depends to a great extent on the extent of linkages at the State/District/Block/Village levels for storing, transportation and distribution of essential commodities.

Foodgrains Stock

764. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total buffer stock of foodgrains in the country;

(b) what is the total cost of this stock;

(c) what is the cost of storage of this stock per annum;

(d) whether Government propose to dispose of this stock by giving foodgrains to the people living below poverty line at concessional rates; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Total stocks of wheat and rice available with the Food Corporation of India and the States on Central Account as on Februrary 28, 1987 and their cost are as under:—

(Qty. in lakh tonnes Value in Rs. crores)

Wheat		Rice	
Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
111.01	2246.62	38.05	2285.43

(c) The average quantity of buffer stocks to be maintained during 1987-88 is expected to be 95.78 lakh tonnes and its carrying cost is estimated to be Rs. 415.78 crores including transit and storage losses.

(d) and (e) The stocks are being utilised for public distribution system, rural employment programmes, supplies of foodgrains at specially subsidised prices to the people in Integrated Tribal Development Project areas and the tribal majority States/Union Territories, Nutrition Programme for young children, pregnant women and nursing mothers.

बिहार में पशुओं की नस्ल में सुधार

765. **श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव** : क्या कृषि मंत्री 27 फरवरी, 1987 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 398 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बिहार में न तो सरकार द्वारा कोई पशु परियोजना अनुसंधान केन्द्र चलाया जा रहा

है और न वहां के किसानों के पास अच्छी किस्म की नस्ल के पशु हैं, यदि हां, तो सरकार इस संबंध में क्या कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है ; और

(ख) क्या राष्ट्रीय डेरी अनुसंधान संस्थान की किसी शाखा द्वारा बिहार में उन्नत किस्म वाली नई प्रजातियां विकसित किए जाने की संभावना है, यदि हां, तो कब तक तथा यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में कृषि और सहकारिता विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री योगेन्द्र मकवाणा) : (क) जी हां, श्रीमन् । भा०कृ०अ०प०. से सहायता प्राप्त अनुसंधान प्रायोजना का कोई केन्द्र बिहार में कार्य नहीं कर रहा है। फिर भी, मवेशी विकास के कार्य पर राज्य सरकार पूरा ध्यान दे रही है जिसने अनेक मवेशी विकास योजनाएं आरम्भ की हैं । इसमें 9 गहन मवेशी विकास योजनाएं (आई सी डी पी) और 82 मूल ग्रामीण प्रखंड हैं । इसके अति रिक्त बिहार में आपरेशन फलड भी कार्य कर रहा है । जिसके अन्तर्गत 380 डेरी सहकारी समितियां हैं जिनमें 10,000 कृषक परिवार कार्य कर रहे हैं ।

(ख) जी हां, श्रीमन् । राष्ट्रीय डेरी अनुसंधान संस्थान, करनाल के पूर्वी क्षेत्रीय केन्द्र को जो कल्यानी (पश्चिम बंगाल) में स्थित है, पूर्वी क्षेत्र में स्थित अन्य राज्यों के डेरी अनुसंधान की जरूरतों को पूरा करने के साथ ही बिहार राज्य के डेरी अनुसंधान की जरूरतों को भी पूरा करना होता है । यह केन्द्र पूर्वी क्षेत्र में पाई जाने वाली स्थितियों के अन्तर्गत होल्स्टीन, ब्राउनस्वीश और जर्सी नस्ल के संकरों के मूल्यांकन का कार्य कर रहा है । अधिक दूध देने वाले मवेशियों को तैयार करने में अभी इस केन्द्र को पूरा समय लगेगा ।

766. [*Transferred to the 29th April, 1987.*]

Gas Leakage in Rourkela Steel Plant

767. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the leakage of Gas in which 18 workers were injured in the Rourkela Steel Plant during December, 1985;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government against the persons found responsible?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Enquiry Committee has observed that, statutory repairs were started on the High Pressure Boiler No. 4 in Captive Power Plant-I from December 3, 1985. The overhaul of blast furnace gas burner valves installed on this boiler hearth was started on December 7, 1985 by seven contract workmen. While the valve bonnet of Burner Valve No. 3 was being taken out, some amount of blast furnace gas entrapped in the pipe bend between the control valve and the burner escaped, affecting the seven workmen. 11 employees of Steel Plant who were working nearby ran to the rescue of the seven affected persons. These seven persons were rescued and sent to hospital immediately. Five affected persons were discharged on December 7, 1985 itself and the remaining two were discharged on December 8, 1985. As a precaution, the 11 RSP employees who had rescued the seven contract workmen were also admitted for observation in the hospital. Out of these 11 employees, three were discharged on December 7, 1985 and the remaining eight on December 8, 1985. All the 18 affected persons resumed duty after the prescribed rest period.

(c) The Departmental Enquiry Committee did not find any grounds to fix responsibility on any person(s). The Committee held that the incident of gas leakage was neither due to improper maintenance of equipment nor due to any improper work methodology. The leakage of a small quantity of gas was purely accidental. The safety equipment was also in proper working condition.